

THE BAPTIST Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

AUG 17 2007

SINCE 1877

AUGUST 2, 2007

VOL. 131

NO. 30

Baptist takes Army chief chaplain post

FORT MYER, Va. (BP) — Douglas Lanier Carver was sworn in July 12 as the 23rd U.S. Army Chief of Chaplains — the first Southern Baptist to hold that position in over 50 years.

Carver was promoted to major general during ceremonies at Fort Myer, Va. He is the first Southern Baptist chief of chaplains for the Army since Chaplain (Maj. Gen.) Ivan L. Bennett held the post in 1954.

Carver said God has called him to serve the needs of soldiers and their families. "I love our soldiers," he said. "...We need God's strength for the days ahead. We must provide support to our soldiers and their families."

It is a chaplain's duty, Carver said, to sustain and strengthen soldiers for another day in the combat zone, pray for them as they are assigned to one more convoy or take one more air mission, and comfort them as they look for hope and courage while facing death.

He recalled the day he watched helplessly as doctors and medics worked frantically to save the life of a soldier. "What can I do? How can I serve this man who is dying?" Carver remembers asking himself.

"Here, chaplain," was all the medic said when he put the dog tags in Carver's hand. At that moment, Carver knew what he had to do — he had to help this soldier prepare, perhaps, to face eternity.

"Southern Baptist chaplains have always been the largest religious denomination in the military," said Keith Travis, director of chaplaincy evangelism at the North American Mission Board



NEW CHAPLAIN CHIEF — Chaplain (Maj. Gen.) Douglas Carver (left) is congratulated by Geoff Hammond (right), president of the North American Mission Board, at his promotion and chief of chaplains acceptance ceremony on July 12 at Fort Myer, Va. Carver is the first Southern Baptist Army chief of chaplains since 1954. (BP photo)

(NAMB) and a retired Army chaplain. "It is only fitting that God would appoint a Southern Baptist to be the chief of chaplains for the Army."

"During the global war on terrorism when our soldiers are pushed to the limit, they look to the chaplain to provide spiritual care," Travis continued. "Our chaplains need a leader like Doug Carver who can provide strong leadership as they fulfill God's call on their lives."

Carver's mother Evelyn named him after General Douglas MacArthur, and Georgia Baptist preacher Forest Lanier. "Mom was... prophetic," said Carver, whose middle name is Lanier.

Carver accepted Christ as his Savior at age 11 during a revival service at his home church, Dykes Creek Church in Rome, Ga. It was also there he first learned of military chaplaincy.

"One of our deacon's sons was an Air Force chaplain," Carver remembered. "Up to that point, I had always wanted to be a preacher. I was also fascinated by the military. So, becoming a chaplain was a perfect fit."

Carver attended the University of Tennessee in Knoxville, was a member of the Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) Tennessee Honor Guard, and was recognized as a distinguished military graduate. Upon graduating in 1973, he joined the Army as a field artillery officer. After serving on active duty for six years, Carver resigned his commission to become a pastor. In June 1984 he was commissioned an Army chaplain.

His assignments have included Operation Iraqi Freedom, deputy command

chaplain for Europe, division chaplain for the 101st Airborne Division, and 22nd deputy chief of chaplains.

His father Floyd served in the Army Air Corps during World War II. One of his uncles also served in the Army, another in the Navy. His great-great-grandfather, Moses Carver, served under Andrew Jackson in the so-called Florida wars, fought in the Civil War with the Georgia militia, and was an Indian War pensioner.

Moses acquired land near Canton, Ga., during the Georgia Land Lottery of 1838, but later moved to Rome, Ga., in 1850. Carver's mother still lives there.

"She often sends [me] a jar of Georgia red clay when I'm homesick," Doug Carver said.

Doug and Sunny met at high school band camp in 1968 and were married in 1973. They have two daughters, Brooke and Laura, and two grandchildren with a third on the way.

"The selection of Maj. Gen. Carver to be the chief of chaplains for the U.S. Army is an historic event for Southern Baptists," said NAMB President Geoff Hammond. NAMB endorses Southern Baptist chaplains.

Testimony: Christian persecution rising in Iraq

WASHINGTON (BP) — Conditions for religious minorities in Iraq "have deteriorated very considerably" in the last three to four months, the bipartisan U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF) was told recently.

The witnesses' testimony also seemed to affirm the USCIRF decision in May to place Iraq on a "watch list" because of the "alarming and deteriorating situation for freedom of religion and belief," as described by the commission. The commission removed Iraq from its list of most severe violators of religious freedom after Hussein's regime was toppled.

Andrew White, vicar of St. George's Anglican Church in Baghdad, told the commission his parishioners told him recently, "We've never had it so bad." Members of religious minorities have been kidnapped, tortured, and killed, he said.

When White visited with his Iraqi congregation two weeks before, he learned 36 of his parishioners had been kidnapped the previous week, he said.

Witnesses provided the following estimates, some based on United Nations reports, on the extent of the persecution of Christians:

- As much as 50% of the Iraqi Christian population has fled the country.
- About 40% of the 2.2 million refugees from Iraq are Chaldo-Assyrian Christians.
- More than 30 churches have been destroyed.

A massive withdrawal of the U.S. military would result in "more blood flowing in the streets than we have already," White said. "[The military] can't just leave. If [troops] pull out, I dread to think of what will happen."



EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK



William H. Perkins Jr.
Editor

EDITOR
William H. Perkins Jr.
wperkins@mbcb.org

ASSOCIATE EDITOR
Tony Martin
tmartin@mbcb.org

LAYOUT/DESIGN
Matt Broome
mbroome@mbcb.org

ADVERTISING
Dana Richardson
drichardson@mbcb.org

CIRCULATION MANAGER
Brenda Quattlebaum
bquattlebaum@mbcb.org

EDITOR EMERITUS
Don McGregor

Baptist Record Advisory Committee:
Mack Amis, McComb
James Beasley, Crystal Springs
Al Green Jr., Bay St. Louis
Rick Henson, Brandon
Beverly Pyron, Natchez
Billy Watkins, Madison
Dana Richardson, secretary

Postmaster:
Send changes of address to: The
BAPTIST RECORD, P.O. Box 530,
Jackson, MS 39205-0530.

Send news, communication, and
address changes to: The Editor,
BAPTIST RECORD, P.O. Box 530,
Jackson, MS 39205-0530.

Tel: (601) 968-3800
Fax: (601) 292-3330
E-mail: baptistrecord@mbcb.org

VOLUME 131 • NUMBER 30
(ISSN-0005-5778)

Published weekly except weeks of July 4 and Christmas by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, 515 Mississippi Street, Jackson, MS 39201. Subscription \$9.35 per year payable in advance. Economy plans available for cooperating Mississippi churches. Periodicals postage paid at Jackson, MS. Member, Association of State Baptist Papers. Deadlines: News items — one calendar week prior to requested publication date. Advertising — two calendar weeks prior to requested publication date. All submissions are subject to editing.

Overlooking the human toll

Thomas Michael Everett allegedly robbed three banks in three states, including Mississippi, in the past few weeks and gambled away the proceeds each time in casinos. Flat broke, he finally flagged down an Arkansas police office on July 26 and turned himself in.

Such tales of compulsive gambling and the desperate actions it provokes no longer surprise Barry Click, director of Samaritan Counseling Services at Mississippi Baptist Health Systems in Jackson. In his counseling practice, he's seen his share of wrecked lives since gambling was legalized in Mississippi.

"The effects of gambling on individuals and families are very severe, devastating. Gambling addiction is 'insidious' — the same word we use when we refer to alcoholism. Similar to alcohol, already-depressed people often use gambling as a way to self-medicate, as a way to deal with their situation," Click said.

It's a well-established fact that gambling ills cut across all social and economic classes, affecting people of all ages — even those who don't gamble themselves.

"The impact on children is similar to growing up in an alcoholic home," Click said.

The problem doesn't stop there, however. "Older patrons tend to spend everything they were going to leave to their children. Instead of leaving their children an inheritance, they actually become a dependent of their children because all their resources have been lost to gambling," Click said.

"Everything you want to do for your family and others, you are deprived of that," he said.

That's the reality of legalized gambling, not the glitzy television commercials of smiling casino patrons throwing piles of casino chips into the air after a big win.

In September 2005, Mississippi Governor Haley Barbour and a majority of the state Legislature exploited the tragedy of Hurricane Katrina to greatly expand legalized gambling and its attendant woes in Mississippi. As the second anniversary nears of that special session, called specifically to meet the demands of the gamblers, there continues to be too little public conversation on the devastation legalized gambling has visited upon countless citizens of both Mississippi and many other states.

Click, who holds a Doctor of Ministry degree from Southern Seminary in Louisville, Ky., understands the pathology of compulsive gambling that has ruined so many lives in Mississippi.

"Think about it," he said. "In a casino environment, you walk into a busy, crowded place with bells and whistles and all kinds of excitement going on. It may not appear to be harmful, but gambling has a gravity that just pulls people in."

Click said gambling affects people and their judgment in much the same way as stimulant drugs. "Gambling is an adrenalin rush. You win at first, and it's exciting. You get hooked on the rush, the feeling. That's what drug abuse does to people."

Click summarizes several noted sources to describe the downfall of the compulsive gambler:

• **Progression** — Can't quit while they're ahead and will continue as long as the money holds out. Unrealistic grandiosity about winning and the benefits of winning. Irresistible urge to bet ever larger amounts of money and take greater risks.

• **Intolerance of losing** — Losing results in a blow to ego and leads to loss of self-esteem. Losses are concealed from family and friends, and lying becomes a fixed element of the gambler's life.

• **Preoccupation** — Gambling becomes an obsession and escape from a troubled reality. Seen as a way to solve not only financial problems but also other problems in their lives.

• **Disregard for consequences** — Final stage. Gambler begins to violate his/her own moral and ethical standards to stay "in play," ward off destruction of self-esteem, and forestall financial collapse. Forgery, theft, and embezzlement are common in this stage. Feelings that one big score will set everything right.

Sadly, that's the ground on which many of our state's leaders have chosen to stake the future of Mississippi. Like legalized alcohol, there are very few Mississippians left anywhere who have not been adversely affected by legalized gambling in our state.

The next time the politicians want to expand gambling — and we all know that's coming — they should be reminded of that fact.

Editor's note: The Samaritan Counseling Center at Mississippi Baptist Health Systems can be contacted at (601) 973-1697, or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 378-7613. Web site: www.mhbs.org, type "Samaritan" in search function.

How legislators voted on land-based gambling (HB 45)

* denotes member of a Mississippi Baptist church

House of Representatives YE-60 (for land-based gambling)

Name	City	District
Akins, Noel*	Oxford	12
Bailey, Willie	Greenville	49
Baker, Mark	Brandon	74
Banks, Earle	Jackson	67
Bentz, Leonard	Biloxi	116
Blackmon Jr., Edward	Canton	57
Broomfield, Billy	Moss Point	110
Brown, Cecil	Jackson	66
Burnett, Clara	Tunica	9
Calhoun, Credell	Jackson	68
Carlton, Virginia*	Columbia	100
Clark, Bryant	Pickens	47
Clarke, Alyce	Jackson	69
Coleman, Linda	Mound Bayou	29
Coleman, Mary	Jackson	65
Compretta, J.P.	Bay St. Louis	122
Davis, Lee Jarrell	Hattiesburg	102
Dedeaux, Dirk*	Guilford	95
Denny, Bill	Jackson	64
Espy III, Henry	Clarksdale	26
Evans, James	Jackson	70
Flaggs Jr., George	Vicksburg	55
Fredericks, Frances	Guilford	110
Guice Jr., Daniel	Ocean Springs	114
Hamilton, Frank	Hurley	109
Harrison, Esther	Columbus	41
Hinds Sr., John	Greenville	50
Holland, Steve	Plantersville	16
Holloway Sr., Gregory	Hazlehurst	76
Ishee, Roger	Guilford	118
Janus, Michael	Biloxi	117
Johnson III, Robert	Natchez	94
Malone, Bennett	Carthage	45
Martinson, Rita	Madison	58
Mayhall Jr., W.T.	Southaven	40
Mayo, John	Clarksdale	25
Moak, Bobby*	Bogue Chitto	53
Moore, John*	Brandon	60
Morris, Leonard	Batesville	11
Myers, David	McComb	98
Norquist, David	Cleveland	28
Patterson, Randall	Biloxi	115
Peranich, Diane	Pass Christian	121
Read, John*	Gautier	112
Reeves, John*	Jackson	71
Robinson Jr., Walter	Bolton	63

Simpson Jr., James*
Smith, Clayton*
Smith, Ferr
Snowden, Greg*
Staples, Gary
Straughter, Rufus
Thomas, Sara
Upshaw, Jessica
Watson, Percy
Whittington, May
Woods, Tommy
Young Sr., Charles
Zuber III, Hank

NAY-53 (against land-based gambling)

Name	City	District
Aldridge, Brian*	Tupelo	17
Arinder, Tracy	Morton	75
Baker, Larry*	Senatobia	8
Barnett, Jim	Brookhaven	92
Beckett, Jim*	Bruce	23
Bondurant, Sidney	Grenada	24
Bounds, Scott*	Philadelphia	44
Buck, Kelvin	Holly Springs	5
Chism, Gary*	Columbus	37
Cummings, Ricky	Iuka	1
Dickson, Reecy	Macon	42
Eaton, Bo*	Taylorville	79
Ellington, Jim*	Raymond	73
Fillingane, Joey*	Sumrall	101
Fleming, Erik	Jackson	72
Formby, Mark*	Picayune	109
Franks Jr., Jamie	Mooreville	19
Frierson, Herb*	Poplarville	106
Gadd, Jack	Hickory Flat	13
Gibbs, David	West Point	36
Gregory, James*	Louisville	43
Gunn, Philip*	Clinton	56
Hamilton, Eugene	Olive Branch	6
Horne, Steve*	Meridian	81
Howell, Bobby*	Kilmichael	46
Hudson, Joey*	Monticello	91
Jennings, Wanda	DeSoto	7
Lott, Mike*	Petal	104
Markham Jr., J.B.	G'wood Springs	20
McBride, Warner*	Courtland	10
McCoy, Billy*	Rienzi	3
Miles, Bill	Fulton	21
Mims V. Sam	McComb	97

Pass Christian
Brandon
Carthage
Meridian
Laurel
Belzoni
Indianola
Diamondhead
Hattiesburg
Schlater
Byhalia
Meridian
Ocean Springs

Montgomery, Pat
Moss, Harvey*
Nicholson, Billy*
Parker, Deryk*
Reed, Dannie*
Reynolds, Tommy*
Robinson, Eric*
Rogers, Margaret
Rogers, Ray
Rotenberry, Clinton*
Smith, Jeff*
Stringer, Johnny
Sullivan, Preston*
Turner, Jerry
Vince, Robert
Walley, Shaun*
Ward, Greg
Warren, Joe
Weathersby, Tom*
Wells-Smith, Carmel*

Pontotoc
Corinth
Little Rock
Lucedale
Ackerman
Water Valley
Quitman
New Albany
Pearl
Mendenhall
Columbus
Montrose
Okolona
Baldwyn
Sandy Hook
Leakesville
Ripley
Mt. Olive
Florence
Pascagoula

15 Harden, Alice
2 Hewes III, William
78 Hohm, John
107 Huggins, Bunky
35 Jackson, Robert
33 Jackson II, Sampson
84 Jordan, David
14 Kirby, Dean*
61 Lee, Ezell*
22 Michel, Walter
39 Moffat, Tommy
87 Morgan, Ed*
22 Posey, Lynn*
18 Robertson, Tommy
99 Ross, Charlie
105 Simmons, William
4 Thames, Billy*
90 Walls Jr., Johnnie
62 Williamson, Gloria

Jackson
Guilford
Jackson
Greenwood
Marks
DeKalb
Greenwood
Pearl
Picayune
Jackson
Gautier
Hattiesburg
Union Church
Moss Point
Brandon
Cleveland
Mize
Greenville
Philadelphia

NAY-21 (against land-based gambling)

Name	City	District
Browning, Nickey	Pontotoc	3
Bryan, Hob*	Amory	7
Butler, Kelvin	Magnolia	38
Carmichael, Videt*	Meridian	33
Flowers, Merle	Southaven	19
Frazier, Hillman	Jackson	27
Gordon, Jack*	Okolona	8
Hyde-Smith, Cindy*	Brookhaven	39
Jackson, Gary*	French Camp	15
King Jr., Tom*	Petal	44
Lee, Perry*	Mendenhall	35
Little, Travis*	Corinth	4
Mettel, Nolan	Sardis	10
Nunnelee, Alan*	Tupelo	6
Pickering, Stacey*	Soso	42
Thomas, Joseph	Yazoo City	21
Tollison, Gray	Oxford	9
Turner, Bennie	West Point	16
Walley, Shannon*	Leakesville	43
White, Richard*	Terry	29
Wilemon Jr., J.P.	Belmont	5

PRESENT

Gottlieb, Tommy	Biloxi	50
-----------------	--------	----

ABSENT

Harvey, Billy*	Prentiss	41
----------------	----------	----

Mississippi Senate

YE-29 (for land-based gambling)

Name	City	District
Albritton, Sid*	Picayune	40
Brown, Terry*	Columbus	17
Burton, Terry	Newton	31
Chaney, Mike	Vicksburg	23
Clarke, Buck	Hollandale	22
Cuevas, Scotty	Pass Christian	46
Davis, Doug*	Hernando	1
Dawkins, Debbie	Pass Christian	48
Dearing, Bob	Natchez	37
Doxey, Ralph	Holly Springs	2

Workers head to mission field after appt.

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — After years of trying to disprove God's existence, Henry Clary realized God is someone you must accept by faith. He was saved in 1995 and just over a year later felt the call to missions in Uruguay — a place he knew little about.

Clary and his wife Tasha were among 84 men and women appointed to the mission field July 17 during a service at Grove Avenue Church in Richmond, Va. Before a crowd of approximately 1,100 people, they committed to join more than 5,100 other International Mission Board (IMB) missionaries around the globe.

"I had not ever thought about Uruguay," Clary remembers. "I knew where it was on the map and I knew they spoke Spanish there but other than that, I had never given the place a second thought."

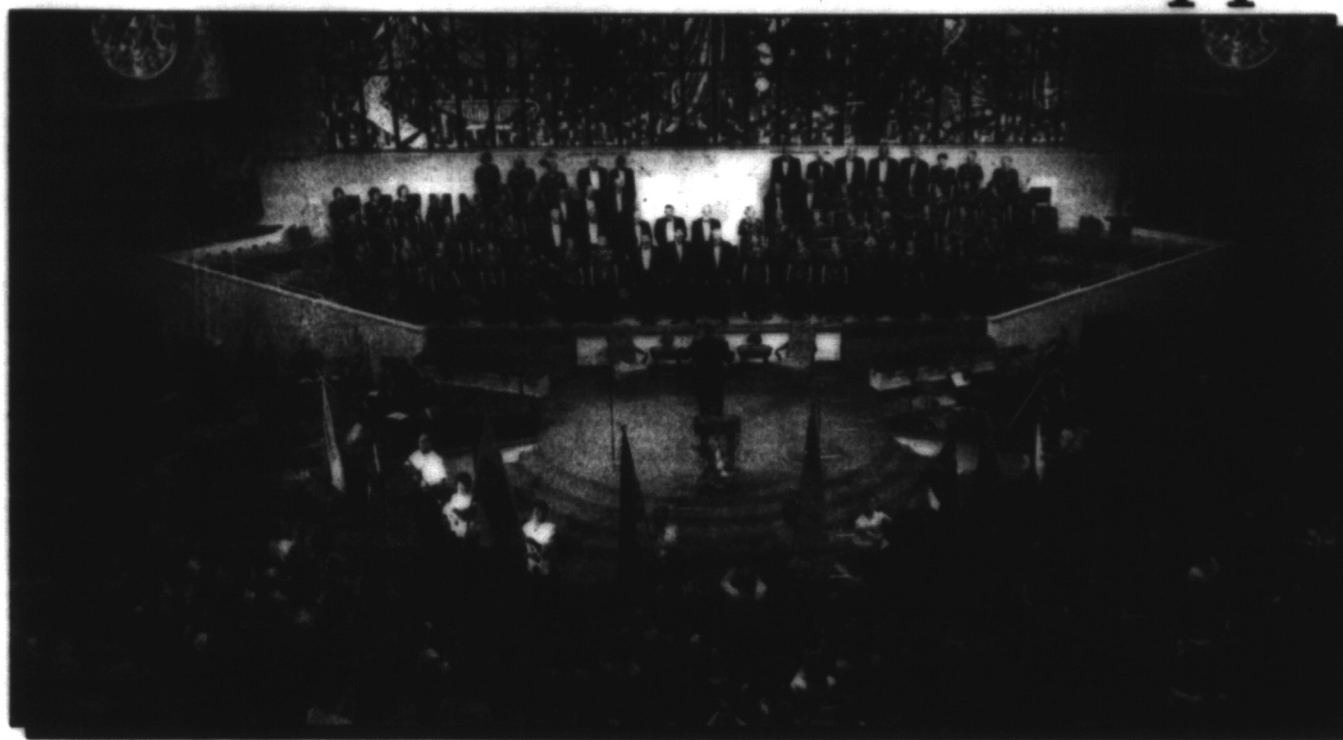
He began to question whether he had understood God's calling correctly, but God reassured him. "The Lord showed me Uruguay on a map in my mind and repeated, 'Go!'"

Clary and his wife moved to Texas for him to attend Southwestern Seminary in 1997. "Two degrees and 10 years later [God] seems to be opening up a door of opportunity for me to go to Uruguay ... the most atheistic country in South America."

Other new missionaries also shared stories of how God led them to their callings. Following are some of their stories:

- Growing up in GAs and RAs, meeting a real live missionary is exciting. This was the case for one missionary who is heading to the Pacific Rim with her husband. (The names of missionaries to the Pacific Rim cannot be printed for security reasons.)

"To me they were extremely famous," she said. "Now as we prepare to go, I realize that is



NEW MISSIONARIES — Missionaries hold flags from around the world representing countries they are going to serve. Eighty-four new missionaries were appointed July 17 as more than 1,100 people attended the service at Grove Avenue Church in Richmond, Va. (BP photo by Beth Spain)

far from true, but I am eager and excited to share the true famous One with those who have never heard."

- Newly engaged and sitting in a missions class, a couple first felt God tug on their hearts to go to the millions who had never heard the name of Jesus.

"Twelve years later, on a tsunami relief trip, as I rode in the back of a pickup, medical supplies to my right and a bag of fish to my left, I knew now was the time to go," said the wife. Now she and her family prepare to serve in the Pacific Rim.

- Joel and Angela Jolley both grew up as missionary kids.

"During a mission trip to Toluca, Mexico, on a quiet walk up a mountain, I sensed God's calling to cross-cultural missions," Joel said. "After 16 years of working in Christian radio, we're headed to Spain!"

- In 1989, Janet Bobo surrendered to God's calling to be a missionary. Janet's husband, Calvin, felt the Lord tugging on his heart while reading *The Commission* magazine, published by the IMB.

"As I pastored," Calvin said, "it was my ... privilege to pray for missionaries and promote missions giving." Added Janet, "Now, in God's perfect time, He is calling our family to serve Him and invest our lives in the people of Ukraine."

IMB President Jerry Rankin, a Mississippi native and graduate of Baptist-affiliated Mississippi college in Clinton, reminded the new missionaries how God converted and called a Jewish rabbi named Paul to begin the process of taking the Gospel to the world.

"It was God's timing for the Gospel to break out of the narrow Jewish context ... and spread to the ends of the earth," Rankin said.

Paul had a vision to go to far-off regions, and he had a passion for those who had never heard the Gospel. He developed a "wigtake" attitude — to do "whatever it's going to

take" to get the Gospel to all peoples — much like the missionaries today, Rankin said.

Rankin challenged the 84 new missionaries to learn to speak the language of their people groups and to rely on the Lord as they minister. He encouraged them to trust God for results as they disciple new believers and train leaders. He advised them to implement an exit strategy so new believers would not become dependent on them. And finally, he urged them to return and report to their sending churches.

"You are going to tell them (Southern Baptists) what God did through you, how He ministered to you and was ... faithful to His Word. Come back and report to the churches," Rankin said. "Because the people who are gathered here — these churches, these families — they [are] partners with you in the task. And that's what it means to be called and follow the call where God is leading."

A person's ability is not as important as his availability, Rankin reminded the group. "God promises to equip those who offer their lives and are willing to go."

'Plan B' booming

WASHINGTON (BP) — Sales of a "morning-after" pill that can cause an abortion are expected to double in the year since the federal government approved its non-prescription distribution. Barr Pharmaceuticals, which manufactures the drug, said sales of Plan B have increased from about \$40 million a year to a total it expects will be near \$80 million for 2007. The Washington Post reported July 13. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) announced Aug. 24 of last year that it would make Plan B available without a prescription for use by women 18 and older. Under the new FDA policy, females 17 and under need a prescription, a requirement previously for women of all ages. Under the government guidelines, Plan B is to be kept in stock behind the counter at each pharmacy, so proof of age can be checked. Plan B is basically a heavier dose of birth control pills. Under the regimen, a woman takes two pills within 72 hours of sexual intercourse and another dose 12 hours later. The "morning-after" pill, also known as emergency contraception, works to restrict ovulation in a woman but also can act after conception by causing an abortion, pro-lifers point out. This mechanism of the drug blocks implantation of a tiny embryo in the uterine wall. Under the new FDA policy, a prescription is required for birth control pills but not for stronger doses of the same drug. The FDA approved Plan B for sale by prescription in 1999.

Looking back

10 years ago

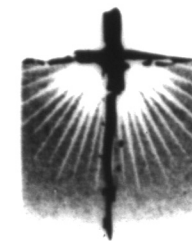
Six Acteen activators and three leaders from Mississippi spend a few weeks in Bogota, Columbia, leading two sessions of Vacation Bible School. The girls guided the children in arts, crafts, and games, and told Bible stories.

20 years ago

Royal Ambassadors and Girls in Action of Pine Forest Church, Collinsville, want to help after they hear Southern Baptist missionary George Ratz speak about missions in Poland, so they raise enough money to purchase 553 Polish-language Bibles.

30 years ago

Ridgecrest Baptist Assembly, Black Mountain, N.C., celebrates its 50th anniversary, with more than 4,000 men, women, and children attending the program.



MISSISSIPPI
BAPTISTS

THE SECOND
FRONT PAGE

PUBLISHED SINCE 1877

AUGUST 2, 2007

VOL. 131

No. 30



YOU CAN RESPOND RIGHT NOW!

Simply share the following prayer
with God in your own words:

1. Lord, I admit that I need you.
(I have sinned.)
2. I want forgiveness for my
sins and freedom from eternal
death. (I repent.)
3. I believe Jesus died and rose
from the grave to forgive my
sins and to restore my rela-
tionship with you.
(I believe in Jesus.)
4. By faith, I invite Jesus
Christ into my life. From this
time on, I want to live in a lov-
ing relationship with Him. (I
receive Christ as my Savior
and Lord.)

"But as many as received him,
to them he gave the right to become
children of God, even to those who
believe in his name." (John 1:12)

If you make a decision for
Jesus Christ today, contact a
local Baptist church for spiritu-
al guidance.

GREAT NATION INVESTMENT CORP. FIRST MORTGAGE CHURCH BONDS EARN UP TO: 8.25%

These bonds may be placed in a self-directed IRA
Transfers and rollovers accepted, in most cases.

Interest Payable Quarterly

This announcement is neither an offer to sell
nor a solicitation of an offer to buy. All offers
are made by prospectus only.

GREAT NATION INVESTMENT CORP.
5408-A Bell • Amarillo TX 79109
Member NASD, SIPC

For more complete information about bond issues,
obtain a prospectus which describes all of the
particulars of the undertaking. Read it carefully before
you invest or send money. All bonds are offered at face
value, subject to availability.

CALL OR RETURN THIS TO:

Martin Northern 800-468-3007
PO Box 1302 501-316-3100
Benton, AR 72018-1302 Fax 501-316-3110

Please send me information on the First Mortgage
Church Bonds currently being offered by
Great Nation Investment Corp.

WE WILL NEVER FORGET

I was walking through a cemetery when I saw a monu-
ment that seemed to call me
toward it. It was not a mili-
tary cemetery though it had a
section that was set aside for
soldiers. The monument I saw
was not a grave marker but a
war memorial. I walked over
to look at it and read the large
words on the monument: "We
Will Never Forget."

Obviously, the monument
was there to commemorate the
men and women who had so
bravely fought and served our
country. Many of them gave
their last measure of love for
our freedom, but the memorial
was not for any particular war
or any specific area of military
service. It just said, "We Will
Never Forget." As I stood there
and looked out at some of the
crosses that were erected for
fallen soldiers, I wondered
what it was that we were sup-
posed to remember and what
it was that we were not sup-
posed to forget. The fact was
that we probably had forgotten
or even sadder was the fact
that we just never knew.

There were graves of soldiers
and sailors that were simply
marked, "Unknown." Who were
they? How did they die? What
part of the battle did they fight
and how much freedom did they
win? Nobody knows. Others
may have died heroically and
their stories repeated among
their fellow warriors. Even



Directions

Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

though their name may be etched
on the stone, no one is there to
repeat their story. We have not so
much forgotten as we just never
had it passed on to us. I was
thinking about that monument,
and I thought about how time
wears us down and how much is
lost as though the heroism and
the goodness of days gone by just
evaporates into the atmosphere
as clouds that disappear.

As we approach two years
that have passed, I thought of
Hurricane Katrina and the legacy
of sadness and suffering she has
left over these years. I have had
people in other parts of our state
and in other parts of the country
say things to me like, "Well, have
things gotten back to normal
down on the coast? Have most of
the people gotten things built
back after Katrina?" I am
shocked, and I want to tell them,
"No, and things may never get
back to normal for many people
in the devastated aftermath of
that storm." It is not because they
are not trying, and it is not
because others are not helping.
The massive destruction that
took place was so far reaching

and so massive in its scale that
the resources given and the ener-
gy expended also require a lot of
time simply to get things done. I
want to ask you to be one of those
for your own life, your own
opportunity, and for your own
involvement in helping others to
respond, "I Will Not Forget." There
is much to be done, needs
that are longing to be met, and
you can make a difference.

When I was just a young fel-
low, I remember one time that
my mom and dad thought it
would be a great idea to spread
something across our yard. I am
not exactly sure what it was but
it was a mixture of sawdust,
maybe soybean hulls, and fertil-
izer. All I know is they thought
that it would be a great idea for
my brothers and me to spend
our spring, summer, and maybe
the rest of our lives spreading
this stuff all over our yard and
flowerbeds. Whatever that stuff
was, they had it hauled and
dumped in our yard. It was not
one truckload, not two, but it
seemed to me like it was hun-
dreds of truckloads. The way this
was going to be spread around

the yard was with a shovel and a
big washtub. We would fill the
tub up and then carry it some-
where in the yard, dump it out,
and rake it down smooth. As I
look back and remember that
pile of stuff in the yard, it had to
have been somewhere nearly as
high as Mount Everest.

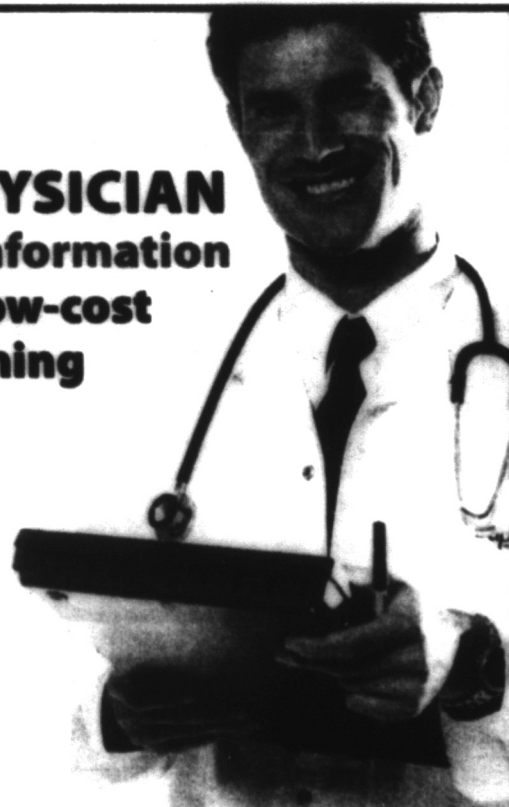
Honestly, you could shovel,
shovel, shovel, carry loads of it
across the yard, and it would
never even look as though any-
thing had been moved. I
thought that we would proba-
bly be shoveling that stuff and
carrying it across the yard all
during the millennium. It was
forced labor under the cruelest
of conditions, but we kept
working at it and working at it
until slowly but surely the pile
of stuff disappeared. Until this
day I can drive by that house
and while there is nothing out
in the yard to see, I can see that
mountain of stuff to be spread.

Across our coast, the needs
continue to be for care,
resources, people, supplies wit-
nessing, outreach, and love.
Folks across the state and the
nation have been wonderful.
Many who have given so much
time, energy, and money are
tired! Thank you for all you
have done. While you may not
be able to maintain the intensi-
ty of response, please do not
forget the many who are con-
tinuing to struggle to rebound.

The author may be contacted at
P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-
0530. E-mail: jfutral@mbcb.org.

Visit us online at www.mbc.org.

- FIND A PHYSICIAN
- Get Health Information
- Schedule a low-cost
health screening



Call the Baptist Health Line at 1.800.948.6262
or visit Baptist's website at www.mbhs.org.

Baptist
HEALTH SYSTEMS

The Spirit of Healthcare

LifeWay CHURCH BUSES
Buses are provided for LifeWay by
Carpenter BUS SALES
America's #1 Church Bus Dealer

1-800-370-6180
carpenterbus.com

1119 Mississippi Churches Can't Be Wrong.

More than 1100 churches throughout Mississippi put
their faith in Wellington Associates for comprehensive
insurance services including property, general, and specific
liability, vehicle, workers compensation, and other coverages.

Wellington guarantees a quality program, customized
for your ministry, at the most competitive premium rates.

For references and more
information, call Mike Brooks at
601-420-0174 or 1-800-442-0290.

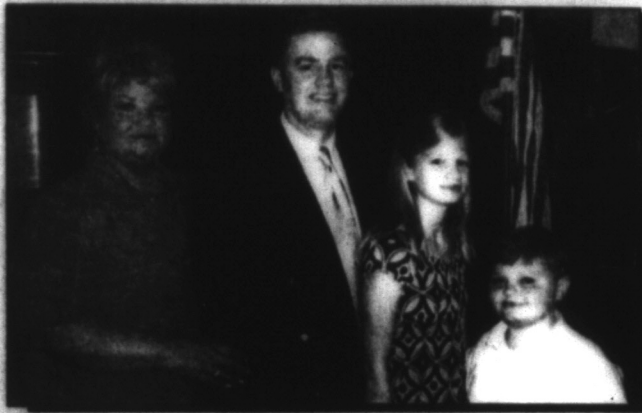
**Wellington
Associates,
Inc.**

MSAudio LLC

Design & Integration of Professional Audio, Video, & Lighting
Church, Conference Room, School
Equipment sales, service and installation

Trooper Hales P.O. Box 1575 Ph 601-923-9947
info@msaudiollc.com Clinton, MS 39060 Fax 601-924-2880

STAFF CHANGES



2. Blackwell and family

1. Tate Church, Corinth, has called Daniel Jones as minister of students and activities. He is a graduate of Mississippi State University and began his work at Tate June 1.

2. First Church, Kosciusko, has called David Blackwell as music and worship pastor. He is shown with his wife and children, Shelli, Ashlee Kate, and Merritt.

3. Calvary Church, Pascagoula, has called Chris Carter as pastor. He comes with his wife Denise and children Tucker and Reilly Grace. Carter attended Henderson State University, Arkadelphia, Ark., New Orleans Seminary, and Trinity Seminary, Newburg, Ind.

4. Bluff Springs Church, Magnolia, has called Anson Morris as minister of music.



4. Morris

5. Bluff Springs Church, Magnolia, has called Bill McCall as pastor effective July 1. Shown are McCall and wife Connie.

6. Holly Church, Alcorn Association, has called John Boler as pastor. He and his wife Elizabeth come from Itawamba County.

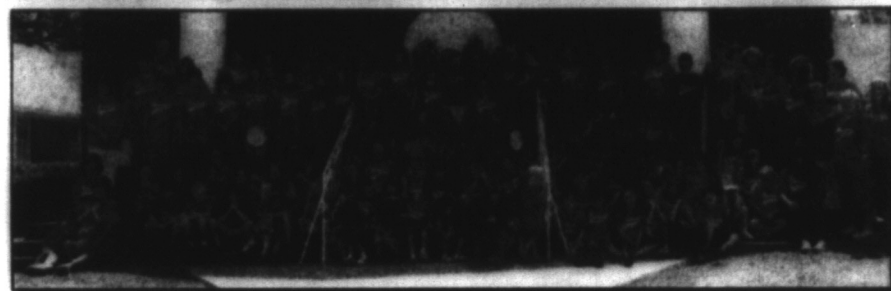


3. Carter and family



5. McCall and wife Connie

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL



1. Harmony Church, Walnut



2. Pleasant Hill Church, Benton-Tippah Association



1. Harmony Church, Walnut: June 25-29; 171 enrolled; 145 average attendance. Nickolette Nelms and Tammy Wooley, directors.

2. Pleasant Hill Church, Benton-Tippah Association: July 15-18; 71 enrolled; Cathy Franks and Sue Glisson, directors.

SUMMER VACATION

Before vacation:

- 1) Confirm hotel reservations
- 2) Get cash for trip
- 3) Pack

SEND CHURCH OUR TITHE

WORRIED ABOUT SUMMER GIVING?

FINANCIAL PEACE UNIVERSITY WILL EQUIP YOU TO GIVE FAITHFULLY AND PAY FOR SUMMER VACATION WITH CASH!

Dave Ramsey's
Financial Peace
University

FPU is a biblically-based, video-driven small group study that teaches families to beat debt, build wealth and give like never before!

CALL TODAY
FOR A FREE PREVIEW DVD!
(877) 378-2667
DAVERAMSEY.COM/CHURCH

JUST FOR THE RECORD



1. Youth Mission Trip, First Church, Shannon



2. Baptist Men's Day, Calvary Church, Oak Grove



3. Deacon Ordination, Pineview Church, Hattiesburg



4. RAs and GAs, Calvary Church, Pasagoula



MISSISSIPPI BAPTISTS

1. The youth of First Church, Shannon, recently participated in a mission trip to Springfield, Mo., working in VBS with Iglesia Bautista Nuevo Pacto Church. Shown, front, are John Anderson, Dalton Dew, and David Ogg; back row, Nikki Dew, Katherine Hester, Casey Vinson, Olivia Ramey, Magan Wilburn, Chole Smith, and Anna Grace Moses.

2. Calvary Church, Oak Grove, celebrated Baptist Men's Day June 17 with a men's choir leading in worship. Shown are the participants.

3. Pineview Church, Hattiesburg, recently ordained Garland King, Richard Rugg, and David Harvison as deacons. Shown are King, Rugg, Harvison, and pastor Douglas E. Benedict, Sr.

4. The RAs and GAs of Calvary Church, Pasagoula, are shown with the bags of pennies collected for the Memorial to the Missing at the Baptist Building in Jackson.

5. Calvary Church, Oxford, recently held its 2nd annual crappie fishing tournament and fish fry, with proceeds going to the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering. Shown are the participants.



5. Crappie Fishing Tournament, Calvary Church, Oxford



6. New library dedication, Beulah Church, Newton County

6. Beulah Church, Newton County, recently dedicated its new library with over 1200 adult and children's books, DVD's, and videos. Shown are library committee members Brenda Bynum, Kate Gray, Keith Ramage, Nicole Bryan, and Charlotte Bryan. Keith Ramage, pastor.

8. First Church, Jackson, is sponsoring GriefShare Sundays, 5-7 p.m., room W-532, from Aug. 26-Nov. 18. No charge. Call (601) 949-1907 for more information.

9. Mountain Creek Church, Florence, is holding a rummage sale Aug. 4, with the proceeds going to the building fund. Call (601) 845-0542 for information.

7. The children of Lake Como Church, Bay Springs, recently attended the M4 Kids Camp at Camp Walkaway. Shown are the participants.



7. M4 Kids Camp Attendees, Lake Como Church, Bay Springs

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL



1. Slayden Church, Lamar



2. Vaiden Church, Vaiden



3. Hopewell Church, Yalobusha Association



4. Bunker Hill Church, Columbia



5. Trinity Church, Laurel



1. **Slayden Church, Lamar:** June 17-24; 114 students enrolled, with 34 teachers and 50 helpers; offering of almost \$1000, designated to the Don Stanfill Missions program; Toni Hunsucker, director; David Bishop, pastor.

2. The children and high school helpers of **Vaiden Church, Vaiden**, are shown performing songs they learned in VBS. Ann Frances Havens, VBS director.

3. **Hopewell Church, Yalobusha Association:** Total enrollment, 43. Shown are the participants.

4. **Bunker Hill Church, Columbia:** Total enrollment, 178, with five professions of faith.

5. Luke Johnson, former USM kicker, and Britt Barefoot, current USM kicker, were recent guests at **Trinity Church, Laurel**, during Vacation Bible School. Shown are Johnson and Barefoot with the kids.

6. Shown are the VBS participants at **Leesburg Church, Morton**. Byron Howell, pastor.

7. **Lakeside Church, Hattiesburg:** June 18-22, with 106 registered and an average attendance of 92. Shown are the participants.

8. **Sunrise Church, Leake County:** Shown are the participants.

9. **Richmond Church, Tupelo:** July 16-20; average attendance, 85; \$835 raised to transport two vans to a church in Mexico. Shown are the 3rd and 4th grade girls class.

10. **West Shady Grove Church, Shady Grove:** Twenty-five enrolled. Paul G. Cain, pastor.



6. Leesburg Church, Morton



7. Lakeside Church, Hattiesburg



8. Lakeside Church, Hattiesburg



9. Richmond Church, Tupelo



10. West Shady Grove Church, Shady Grove

JUST FOR THE RECORD



1. Youth attend MissionFuge/Centrifuge, Slayden Church, Slayden



2. Baby Dedication, New Home Church, Fulton



3. Scholarship recipient, Concord Church, Benton-Tippah Assoc.



4. RAs and GAs, Lakeside Church, Hattiesburg



5. Groundbreaking, Tate Church, Corinth

1. Slayden Church, Slayden, had 41 youth and eight counselors attend MissionFuge/Centrifuge at Mississippi College, Clinton. Shown are the participants.

2. New Home Church, Fulton, recently held a baby dedication. Shown are Addie Belle Knight, her parents Stacy and K.W., and pastor Michael Warren.

3. Concord Church, Benton-Tippah Association, awarded the 2007 Gerald C. Mauney scholarship to Maurice Singh of India, a student at Blue Mountain College. Shown are T.C. Mauney, pastor Robert E. Walker, and Singh.

4. The RAs and GAs of Lakeside Church, Hattiesburg, went on a retreat to Elks Lake June 13-15. Shown are the participants.

5. Tate Church, Corinth, broke ground July 8 for their new Christian Life Center. The 18,000 sq. ft. facility will contain a gym, dining room, kitchen, youth classrooms, children's classrooms, and a permanent worship center for children's church. Shown are the building committee and staff.

6. The Pearl Valley Church, Wesson, youth cooked for volunteers at First Church, Bay St. Louis from June 16-23. Shown are the participants. David Langston, pastor; Curt Fennell, youth minister.

7. The Young at Heart senior adults of Holly Church,



6. Youth cook for volunteers, Pearl Valley Church, Wesson



7. Senior Adult Trip, Holly Church, Alcorn Association

Alcorn Association, recently visited Land Between the Lakes in Kentucky. Shown are the participants.

8. First Church, Baldwin, recently licensed Chris Rinehart to the gospel ministry. Shown are pastor Stanley Huddleston and Rinehart.



8. Rinehart licensed, First Church, Baldwin

9. Alexander Memorial Church, Washington Association, completed Adult Bible Drills with 28 receiving certificates, with David Donham, Jessica Cudd, and Jacky Stevens

receiving superior. Rick Griffin, pastor.

MS POSITIONS

MT. ZION BAPTIST CHURCH, Independence, Miss., seeks a part-time youth minister. Please submit resumes to Mt. Zion Baptist Church, P.O. Box 155, Independence, MS 38638.

CLASSIFIED ADS

REASONABLY PRICED INSURANCE: Medicare supplements, major medical, & small group health insurance plans available for individuals & churches. Call Carra Turner (662) 231-4487 for rates or visit www.turnerinsuranceonline.com.

AFFORDABLE BEACHSIDE & beachfront vacation condos. Summer specials, Gulf Shores & Orange Beach, Alabama, www.gulfshorescondos.com. Two nights efficiency sleeps 4 beachside, \$256. Four nights 2 bedroom sleeps 6 beachside \$605. Two nights, 1 bedroom sleeps 6 beachfront \$383. Four nights 2 bedroom sleeps 6 beachfront \$650. Prices include everything. Call (205) 556-0368 or (205) 554-1524, expires 8/30/07.

STAINED GLASSWORKS, INC., SERVING MS & AL since 1992. Call (800) 605-2970.

HOPPER GLASS STUDIO, CUSTOM church windows, reworking and repair. Columbus/Jackson, (877) 477-1899.

NEW ENGLAND MOTORCOACH TOUR: Oct. 1-10. Cape Cod, Stur Bridge Village Von Trapp Family Lodge, Brooklyn Tabernacle worship service, Psalms of David, Lancaster, PA. 17 states, bus, lodging, admission, 20 meals, 9 nights, 10 days, \$1750. Double occ., Purpose Driven Tours (601) 371-8733. Many other trips available or will plan for your group.

CHURCH PEW UPHOLSTERY, free estimates. Davis Upholstery, Quitman, Miss., phone (601) 776-6617.

CHRISTIAN LONG DISTANCE: 3.9 interstate, 3.9 in state. Ask about rates as low as 1.9 state to state. No monthly service charge. Call 1-866-587-8346 or www.lowermyphonebill.com/haroldtt.

DISCOUNT BAPTISTRIES & STEEPLES. Baptist murals, heaters, lighting, seating, wall crosses, pew cushions, kringlas, carpet, signs. Church Supply Company of Texas, (800) 728-8291.

SEBREN'S SIDING, JACKSON, Christian owned. All home improvements, vinyl siding, windows, metal and shingle roofs, patio covers, screen and glass rooms. (601) 992-2092, Don & Rita Sebrén, owners.

QUIET GATLINBURG CABIN RETREAT: 2 bdrm — sleeps 6. Mt View from deck. Full kitchen, level entry, \$95/night. For information: (251) 666-2175, (c) (251) 689-9982, email: pdw@worldnet.att.net.

HEIDELBERG STAINED GLASS, Meridian. Design, fabrication, repair. Fax illustrations to (601) 483-7958 or call (800) 368-2705.

SMOKE-FREE BRANSON, MISSOURI condo nightly rental. Like home, all new furnishings, street level, no steps, breathtaking view, sleeps 6, no pets. Call (888) 879-0388 or Bucmom71@aol.com.

CROSSWAY HARDWOOD FLOORS: sanding, finishing, installation, resanding, tile, pre-finish. Have refinished floors on a church built in 1800s. Call Trey Shaw (601) 906-6956.

COLLEGE NEWS



1. Summer Camps, WCU

1. William Carey University hosted several special camps over the course of the summer, including Camp W Carey, Creativity Camp, the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board sponsored All State Youth Choir Camp, Soccer Camp, the Crusader Softball Camp, and the Bobby Halford Holiday Baseball Camp. Shown is Kandi Bass, left, a child and adolescent therapy graduate from Hattiesburg during the Flour Ball game held during Camp W Carey.
2. On July 17, a \$500,000 donation from the estate of Hollis and Julia Todd, both Mississippi College graduates and instructors, will create scholarships for communication students on the Clinton campus. The first four scholarships will be awarded in Fall 2008. The Hollis and Julia Todd Scholarship is designed for students in communication, drama, radio and television, and speech. For more information, contact the Department of Communication at Mississippi College at (601) 925-3229.
3. Mississippi College is moving ahead with its first doctor of education degree on the Clinton campus after recently getting the approval of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. Founded in 1826, MC will soon offer the doctoral degree program in educational leadership and school officials anticipate 20 students will enroll for the first year beginning in January 2008. Each year, an additional 20 students are expected to enroll. MC's new Doctor of Education in Educational leadership degree will consist of 76 semester hours beyond the master's degree. Two additional full-time faculty members will be added to teach the classes. Courses range from faith, ethics and social issues in educational leadership to legal structures and issues pertaining to school operations.

4. William Carey University will hold graduation ceremonies August 4 on the Hattiesburg campus. One hundred and five Hattiesburg campus graduate students will receive degrees at 9:30 a.m. followed by 92 students receiving undergraduate degrees at 1 p.m. One hundred and thirty-two WCU Gulf Coast students, both undergraduate and graduate, will receive degrees at 4 p.m. Seating is limited in the Smith Auditorium located in the Thomas Fine Arts Building.

5. John Kelly is taking on a new assignment as Mississippi College's first graduate recruiter and program developer. Kelly, 26, received his bachelor's in 2003 and master's in 2006 in communication from MC. He was formerly associate director of undergraduate admissions at the college.



5. Kelly

6. Mississippi College will award degrees to nearly 200 students at its summer commencement August 4. The event begins at 10 a.m. at the A.E. Wood Coliseum on the Clinton campus.

7. Jennifer Dyess, a Mississippi College graduate student in fine arts, came away a big winner in competition at the annual convention of the Printing Industry Association of the South. Hederman Brothers Printers of Ridgeland submitted 20 pieces at the recent awards program at the Hilton Sandestin Beach Golf Resort in Destin, Fla. The two items created by Dyess were chosen in June as Best of Category at the 33rd annual convention.



7. Dyess

8. Mississippi College's \$65 million campaign to enhance academic programs, scholarships and building projects has reached the \$47 million mark, school leaders said recently.

9. Donna Duck Wheeler, retired director of alumni at William Carey University, will receive an honorary degree during commencement exercises August 4 at 1 p.m. on the Hattiesburg campus.

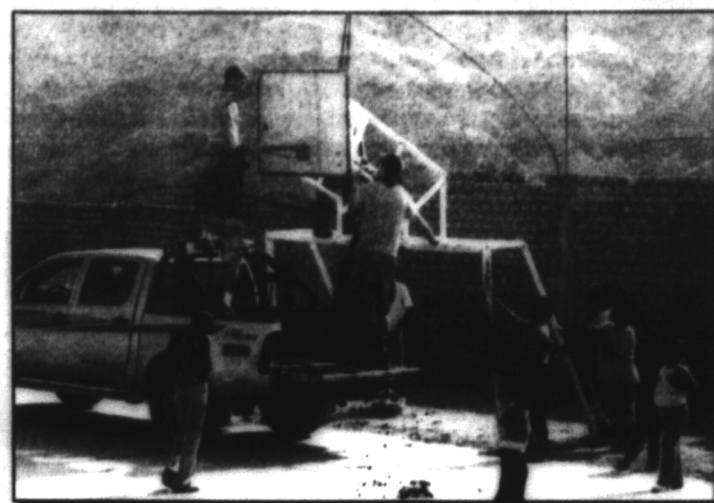


9. Wheeler

10. Director of nursing education at the Mississippi Institutions of Higher Learning, Mary Fortenberry Ware will receive an



10. Ware



11. Mission Trip to Peru, WCU

honorary degree from William Carey University during the 9:30 a.m. graduation ceremony to be held on the Hattiesburg campus August 4.

11. The Baptist Student Union (BSU) at William Carey University has been involved in several activities including a 12-day mission trip to Peru, involving 15 representatives, in conjunction with the Lamar County Association and REAP North. Eleven students spent their summer away from home on the mission field as part of the BSU Summer Missions program. The BSU Church Ministry Teams raised more than \$6500 for summer missionaries. The 35-member Church Ministry Teams serve as DiscipleNow leaders, speakers, and worship leaders. In July the BSU announced it had teamed with the White House to become a Certifying Organization for the President's Volunteer Service Award, a national program recognizing Americans who have demonstrated a sustained commitment to volunteer services. Upcoming events include auditions for the BSU Praise Band Aug. 23, 5 p.m., in the Student Conference Center. There is a Sept. 3 Labor Day cookout at 5 p.m., co-sponsored with the Student Government Association. The BSU will begin the Apartment Ministry with a Block Party to register middle school students for the tutoring and mentoring program conducted by WCU staff and students at Wisteria and Pine Haven apartments in Hattiesburg. Global Opportunity Week (GOweek) is in October, and is a mission emphasis week designed to educate students about missions and introduce students to summer missions opportunities. And students can attend the Catalyst Conference in Atlanta in October, a leadership experience which features talks by the nation's foremost Christian experts on leadership. Shown are students repairing a basketball goal in Jimbe, Peru.

HOMEcoming & REVIVALS

Bayou View Church, Gulfport: 50th anniversary, Aug. 18; for information, call (228) 863-2482.

Calvary Church, Canton: Revival, Aug. 5-8; Sun., 10:15 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 6:30 p.m.; fellowship after Wed. service; Jim Futral, speaker; Graham Smith, music; Tom Rayburn, pastor.

Calvary Church, Oxford: Revival, Aug. 5-9; 6:30 p.m. nightly; Chris Dupree, speaker.

Crooked Creek Church, Silver Creek: Homecoming, Aug. 5; Mike Green, speaker; Songs of Grace, music; covered dish meal.

Eastport Church, Iuka: Revival, Aug. 5-8; Sun., 11 a.m. and nightly, 7 p.m.; Ronnie Hatfield, speaker; Homecoming, Aug. 12, 11 a.m., followed by lunch and afternoon singing; Donald Pounders, speaker; Lovelace Family, music. The church also hosts riverside services each Sunday, 8:30 a.m.

First Church, Lake: Revival, Aug. 5-8; Sun., 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Scott Walters, speaker; Michael Gibson, music; Ken McLeMore, pastor.

Hathorn Church, Jeff Davis Association: Revival, Aug. 5-10; Sun., 11 a.m. followed by lunch

and afternoon singing; Mon.-Fri., 7 p.m.; Keith Bonner, speaker; Duke and Linda Barnes, music; Wade Barnes, pastor.

Holcomb Church, Holcomb: Revival, Aug. 12-15; Sun., 11 a.m., followed by lunch and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Rex Yancey, speaker; Jackie Johnson, music; Bob Johnson, pastor.

Little Bahalia Church, Wesson: Homecoming, Aug. 12; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship, 10:45 a.m., followed by lunch and afternoon service at 1:30 p.m. with music by Hosanna; Revival, Aug. 13-15; 7 p.m. nightly; Kent Cochran, speaker; Ms. Ray Gates, music; Cindy Meyers, pianist; James Case, pastor.

Montgomery Church, Summit: Homecoming, Aug. 5; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m., followed by dinner and afternoon singing; Wayne Moak, speaker; Billy Smith and Cecil Reeves family, music.

Pleasant Hill Church, Lincoln Association: Homecoming, Aug. 5, 10:30 a.m., followed by lunch; Revival, Aug. 12-15; Sun., 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Ricky Cummins, speaker; Hubert Greer, music; Floyd Higginbotham, pastor.

Sardis Church, Smith Association: 31st annual homecoming, Aug. 5; worship, 10:30 a.m., followed by lunch

and singing; Walter Butler, speaker; Scott Magnum, pastor.

Thomastown Church, Thomastown: Homecoming, Aug. 5; worship, 11 a.m., followed by lunch; Brian Hill, pastor.

Wesson-Sylvarena Church, Wesson: Homecoming, Sept. 9; pre-service, 10:30 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m.; Matt Buckles, speaker.

Woodville Church, Woodville: Revival, Aug. 12-15; Sun., 11 a.m. and 7 p.m. nightly; Mon.-Wed., noon, with lunch at 11:45 a.m.; William Blackburn, speaker; Ronnie Cottingham, music.

Bibliocipher

By Charles Marx, 1932 - 2004
copyrighted 2005

RUXEBT, Q LYHWYD
IXQBB RU MYJX SXYBT,
QDT IXQBB RHYDW
VEHJX Q IED, QDT JXUO
IXQBB SQBB XYI DQCU
UCCQDKUB, MXYSX
RUYDW YDJUHFHUIJUT YI
WET MYJX KI.

CQJIXUM EDU: JMUDJO-

JXHUU

Clue: R = B

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: John fourteen: Three.



3. Youth Bible Drillers, Slayden Church, Lamar



1. Phillips honored, Lakeshore Church, Jackson



2. Bible Drillers, Arlington Church, Bogue Chitto

1. Lakeshore Church, Jackson, honored Hanna Phillips, a 2007 graduate of Terry High School during the church's baccalaureate services.

Shown are Phillips and minister of music Matt Leach.

2. Arlington Church, Bogue Chitto, recognizes its Bible Drill participants, Anna Wallace and Victoria Forshee.

3. Slayden Church, Lamar, recognizes its youth and adult Bible Drillers. Shown are the participants.

4. Clear Branch Church, Wesson, recently held a ground breaking. Shown are the participants.

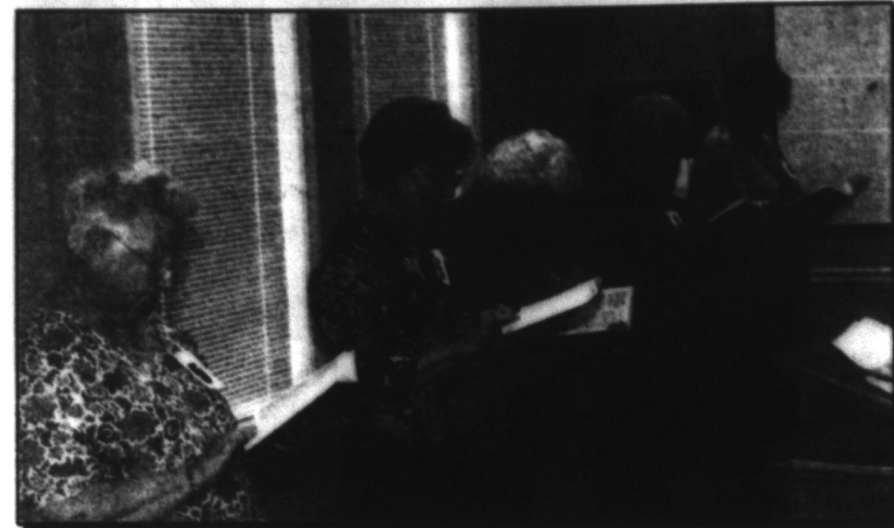
5. Woodland Hills Church, Jackson, went on a mission trip to Denver/Aurora, Col., to work with NAMB missionaries Anatoliy and Natalya Odnoralov, church planters among Russian speaking immigrants of the Denver area. Shown are the Odnoralovs and members of Woodland Hills.

6. Rocky Point Church, Carthage, recognizes its children and youth Bible Drillers. Shown are the participants.

7. Edwards Church, Edwards, honored interim pastor John G. McCall on his 90th birthday with the help of Mayberry Ministries. Shown is McCall, center, with the cast.



MISSISSIPPI
BAPTISTS



3. Adult Bible Drillers, Slayden Church, Lamar



4. Groundbreaking Ceremony, Clear Branch Church, Wesson



5. Mission trip, Woodland Hills Church, Jackson



6. Bible Drillers, Rocky Point Church, Carthage



7. McCall honored, Edwards Church, Edwards

Tablet sparks interest in obscure O.T. character

LONDON (BP) — It's doubtful that many Christians remember the name "Nebo-Sarsekim" from reading the Old Testament, but thanks to an archaeological discovery at the British Museum, they may in the future.

British Museum officials announced recently the discovery of a two-inch-wide, 2,500-year-old cuneiform tablet that contains details of a financial transaction by a "Nabu-shar-russu-ukin," who is called in the tablet the "chief eunuch" of Babylon King Nebuchadnezzar.

That's the same person mentioned in Jeremiah 39:3 — although spelled differently in different translations — as the chief officer of Nebuchadnezzar who was in Jerusalem when the Babylonians overtook the city around 587 B.C.

Conservative biblical scholars say it's another affir-

mation that the Bible is true — even in the smallest of details, such as names.

"This is a fantastic discovery, a world-class find," the British Museum's Irving Finkel said, according to The London Telegraph. "If Nebo-Sarsekim existed, which other lesser figures in the Old Testament existed? A throw-away detail in the Old Testament turns out to be accurate and true. I think that it means that the whole of the narrative [of Jeremiah] takes on a new kind of power."

The New International Version of the Bible translates Jeremiah 39:3 thusly:

"Then all the officials of the king of Babylon came and took seats in the Middle Gate: Nergal-Sharezzer of Samgar, Nebo-Sarsekim a chief officer, Nergal-Sharezzer a high official and all the other officials of the king of Babylon."

That verse immediately follows a verse describing the Babylonians breaking through Jerusalem's walls. Various translations also call Nebo-Sarsekim a "Rabsaris," which can be translated "chief official" or "chief eunuch."

The tablet actually dates to 595 B.C., several years prior to the siege of Jerusalem. It would have been made by pressing an object into clay. The tablet reads, according to the Telegraph: "(Regarding) 1.5 minas (0.75 kg) of gold, the property of Nabu-sharrussu-ukin, the chief eunuch, which he sent via Arad-Banitu the eunuch to [the temple] Esangila: Arad-Banitu has delivered [it] to Esangila. In the presence of Bel-usat, son of Alpaya, the royal bodyguard, [and of] Nadin, son of Marduk-zer-ibni. Month XI, day 18, year 10 [of] Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon."

BIBLE STUDIES FOR LIFE

When Overwhelmed by Responsibilities

1 Kings 3:1-15

By Laura Leathers

Responsibility is a word parent's use frequently and children would rather not hear! The word, according to Webster's Dictionary means: expected or obliged to someone; accountable; answerable. Solomon, approximately 20 years of age, felt the weight of responsibilities as he assumed the role of king over God's chosen people — "but I am a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in" (1 Kings 3:7). How could he ever follow in the footsteps of King David, his father, a man after God's own heart?

David's instruction on how to handle this tremendous load, "keep the charge of the LORD your God: to walk in His ways, to keep His statutes, His commandments, His judgments, and His testimonies, as it is written

in the Law of Moses, that you may prosper in all that you do and wherever you turn; that the LORD may fulfill His word which He spoke concerning me ..." (1 Kings 2:3, 4).

Daily Solomon would succeed as king if he would ...

1. Turn to the Lord (1 Kings 3:1-4)

"Solomon loved the LORD, walking in the statutes of his father David, except that he sacrificed and burned incense at the high places" (1 Kings 3:3). Initially, Solomon did turn to the Lord for direction. Chapters 3 and 4 of 1 Kings were written prior to the temple construction (1 Kings 6:1). Therefore, at this point and time in history, to worship at the 'high places' was an exception to the law God gave in Numbers 33:50-56. Solomon along with King



Leathers

David worshipped God at the high place at Gibeon; where the tabernacle and the altar of burnt offering was located (1 Chron. 21:29; 2 Chron. 1:3-4, 13). However, once the temple was completed this 'high place' was to be destroyed. Later we learn Solomon retained the high places and ultimately lead to his turning away from God. "Solomon's life was splendor without surrender," states Dr. Henrietta Mears.

2. Focus on What's Important (1 Kings 3:5-9)

"When the young Princess Victoria learned early one morning that she had become Queen of England, the first thing she did was to ask the Archbishop of Canterbury to pray for her. The Archbishop and Lord Chamberlain knelt down together and prayed that grace, strength and wisdom might be given to her throughout her reign. Governing is a serious business. Solomon realized its seriousness as a young man, and began his reign with

prayer" (What the Bible is all About Bible Handbook, Dr. Henrietta C. Mears, page 146).

In Solomon's dream at Gibeon, God said, "Ask! What shall I give you?" Solomon replied give me an "understanding heart" (leb shama'): Shama' literally means "to hear, listen to, obey" and leb means "the inner man, mind, will, heart, or understanding." This phrase carries the meaning of a person who seeks to hear and understand God's instructions with a deep desire to implement what He says (Blackaby Study Bible, page 400). Solomon knew he would not be able to govern "this great people of Yours" unless He had God's wisdom. Was it Solomon who wrote, "Keep your heart with all diligence, for out of it spring the issues of life" (Proverbs 4:23)?

James 1:5 states, "If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God ..." God is able and more than willing to give His people wisdom. The book of Proverbs is filled with admonishment to 'get wisdom'. "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge, but fools

despise wisdom and instruction" (Proverbs 1:7). Wisdom is available — ask!

3. Walk in God's Ways (1 Kings 3:10-15)

"Life is too short to be doing the wrong thing!" The truth is; our choices can take us down paths God never intended us to travel. Proverbs 14:12 states, "There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death."

God warned Solomon, "If you walk in My ways ... then I will lengthen your days." We learn later, Solomon did not walk in the ways of God.

What overwhelming responsibilities are you facing today? Have you turned to the Lord? Are you focused on what's really important? Are you walking in God's ways? What is the best way to handle overwhelming responsibilities? The answer is found in Matthew 6:33, "But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you." This is our first responsibility!

Leathers is a member of First Church, Durant.

EXPLORE THE BIBLE

Joy

Zechariah 9:9; 12:10; 13:1, 7-9; 14:3-4, 5b-9

By Charles Rodgers

It's safe to say that joy is one of the most elusive experiences for Christians. It seems that our joy is overshadowed by the fears, anxieties and stresses of daily living. Joy seldom comes to us and, if it does, it is fleeting or unfulfilling. Part of the problem is that joy is often misunderstood. It is most often connected to happiness. However, happiness is always tied to positive events and disappears when trouble and sorrow come. Joy, on the other hand, throbs throughout Scripture as a profound, compelling quality of life that transcends the events and disasters that may be encountered. Joy is a divine dimension of living that is not shackled by circumstances. The Hebrew word means, "to leap or spin around with pleasure." Ah, we could

use some of that kind of joy in our lives today.

In the context of the vivid memories of 70 years of exile where sorrow, grief, and depression prevailed and in the context of the tireless task of the rebuilding of the temple, God commands His people to rejoice because He will save, restore, and reign over them. Joy, according to Zechariah, is not tied to emotions or experiences of the past or present, but in the person of the Lord. The focal passage emphasizes rejoicing in the Lord's present and future deliverance of His people.

I. Rejoice Over The Savior - Zechariah 9:9; 12:10

Zechariah 9-14 is a section of messianic prophecies. The revelation given to Zechariah neither distinguishes between the first



Rodgers

and second comings of Christ nor provides a clear and complete sequence of end-time events. Instead, in a period of insecurity and turmoil, Zechariah was given messages that portrayed the glorious future God has planned for His people. While Bible scholars debate details of interpretation, this lesson focuses on the joyful good news about the Lord's salvation and about the future reign of the King of Kings.

The messianic prophecy of Zechariah 9:9 finds its fulfillment in Matthew 21:1-11 while 12:10 has its fulfillment in John 19:34, 37. Jesus' glorious entrance into Jerusalem, at least partially fulfilling Zechariah's prophecy, was followed by His sacrificial death on the cross. His death/resurrection provide the salvation all of us desperately need. Some Bible scholars relate 12:10 to Romans 11:25-27, which foretells the Israelites turning to Jesus Christ in a time yet to come. Zechariah calls upon the people to rejoice in

the coming of the Messiah King who will bring peace and hope through His suffering. We can all rejoice in the peace and hope of the Lord's salvation.

II. Rejoice over Cleansing - Zechariah 13:1, 7-9

Zechariah speaks of "that day" and the intent is prophetic of the day when Jesus will be crucified for the sins of the world. "My Shepherd" in verse seven refers again to Jesus and correlates with Matthew 26:31. These scriptures are prophetic of the intense suffering and death of Jesus Christ on Calvary's cross. They indicate that the trials and persecution of Christ have a purifying or cleansing effect on God's people. The message is clear. There would come a day when a fountain of cleansing would be opened to the Israelites. The fountain would be none other than the Son of God, Jesus Christ the Savior. He would be crucified and the sheep would be scattered, tested, and refined. A remnant would be saved and would claim Him as Lord.

Looking back, we know that the prophecy of Zechariah was certainly fulfilled through Jesus Christ. Zechariah encouraged his people to look forward with joy to the day of the Lord when they would have access to the fountain of cleansing. Today, we can also rejoice in the cleansing of the Lord's salvation.

III. Rejoice over the coming King - Zechariah 14:3-4, 5b-9

Chapter 14 prophesies the second coming of Christ. Bible scholars variously interpret His reign as the 1,000-year reign of Revelation 20, His reign from heaven or His reign over heaven and earth. Ultimately, He will reign over all. Our focal passage here indicates that when the Lord returns, He will bring victorious judgment on all who are opposed to Him and He will reign over all. We can all be joyfully submissive to the Lord's reign in our lives now and rejoice in His coming reign over all.

Rodgers is Associational Missions Director for Jackson Association and a member of First Church, Gautier.

Guidelines for submitting news and photographs

The Baptist Record is pleased to publish news and photographs of special events that take place in cooperating churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

News submitted for publication in The Baptist Record must be either (a) typewritten, (b) neatly printed on 8 1/2 by 11-inch paper, or (c) neatly printed on standardized forms provided by the newspaper. All articles must be received in writing; no articles will be accepted over the telephone.

News may be submitted electronically to the address below, and must be contained in the message segment of an e-mail form. Due to increasing virus threats,

no text attachments will be accepted. Photograph attachments are permissible.

Please make articles concise. Include the who, what, when, where details of the story, along with a contact person's address and telephone number.

Photographs may be color or black and white. Instant photos and digital printouts are not reproducible. Digital photos may be used if submitted as a JPEG file via either (a) e-mail, (b) three-and-a-half inch floppy disk, or (c) CD. Photos must be

clear, sharp, and well-lighted. Photographs can not be returned.

All news items are subject to editing, and all photographs are subject to cropping. Photographs must depict people. No landscape-, building-, or object-only photographs will be printed. News items and/or photographs can be published one time only. Deadline for submitting news is one week prior to requested publication date.

Articles that are not date-sensitive will be published on a space-available basis.

Submit news and photographs to The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. FAX: (601) 292-3330. E-mail: baptistrecord@mbcb.org.

THE BAPTIST
Record

Page views works in progress during Kenyan tour

KENYA, Africa (BP) — Hours from any city, traveling on roads he could only describe as "horrible," Southern Baptist Convention President Frank Page recently saw first-hand how Southern Baptist representatives are partnering to provide clean drinking water to a highly remote, nomadic people in northern Kenya.

"It was great to see the hands-on ministry and the relationships that are developing out of that," Page said, noting the acceptance and trust the efforts have built in the area for Southern Baptist representatives. "They are a people in need of the Lord and the Gospel, and meeting human needs is a great entree for that."

Now two International Mission Board (IMB) regions — the West Africa region and the Central, Eastern, and Southern Africa (CESA) region — are working together to mobilize so-called millennium (20-something) Southern Baptists to address spiritual and physical needs across the continent of Africa.

Still in the development stages, the program is set to be unveiled at LifeWay's Glorieta (N.M.) and Ridgecrest (N.C.) Conference Centers this summer, with the first wave of students reaching Africa in January. Page commended the effort, pointing to the critical need to involve more young people in ministry both in the U.S. and internationally.

"I see the 20-something generation as integral to reaching the world," he said. "If we do not find strategies that involve them, we will not fulfill the Great Commission."

Page, who visited Kenya in mid-July, drew a parallel between work being done in Kenya among nomads and the millennium generation's desire to meet both physical and spiritual needs.

"They want to minister to the whole person," he said. "Well, if you talk about offering a cup of cold water in Jesus' name — that's exactly what they are doing here."

While there has been some Catholic and Muslim influence in the area, evangelical work is unknown. Illiteracy is high, and television and electricity are nonexistent.

"It was by far the most isolated place I've ever seen in the world," Page said, noting the group's separation even from other nomadic tribes. "I've been many places in the world, but this was the most remote. It was the first time in my life that I had seen herdsmen actually carrying a warrior's spear."

The area, he said, is spiritually dark.

"They don't even know the questions to ask," he said. "They've been living in darkness so long they don't know how to turn to the light. They don't know where to turn or who to turn to."

It may be possible, Page said, for Baptist medical and dental teams to play a role — having now been there him-



IN AFRICA — Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) President Frank Page visits with Kenyan children during a recent mission trip to that African country. Page, in his second term as SBC president, toured Kenya in July and saw for himself the work Southern Baptists are conducting in a country where even electricity is a luxury. (BP photo)

self, he would like to bring a medical team from his own church — but it will be necessary to establish an ongoing supportive presence in the area to be effective. Establishing that presence will be Southern Baptist's greatest challenge, given the area's harsh, arid climate, he added.

Page challenged Baptists both at home and abroad to stay focused on the task of sharing the Gospel message wherever they are, both on the mission field and in the U.S.

"I was deeply encouraged to see that we've gone

far enough with the Great Commission that we can reach out to small, isolated groups such as this one," Page said, emphasizing the continued need to share the Gospel in remote areas. "We're called to go to all of the earth, and these people are truly at the uttermost parts."

"I am burdened that more needs to be done but Southern Baptists are solidly behind our mission force, and we will not back down, back up, or back away from that. You can count on it."

Thousands of people are coming to my town on August 17-19, and the Sturgis Biker Mission is inviting you to help us share Christ with them.

Tens of thousands of bikers come into Sturgis on the third weekend of August every year. When they come, this little town in the southwestern corner of Oktibbeha County is barely recognizable. The town's population of about 260 swells to well over 30,000. Hotels, motels and campgrounds fill up for miles around.

Opportunities to share Christ abound. You can be instrumental in leading some to the Lord. Won't you come?

This August marks the 11th anniversary of "The South's Warmest Welcome," the Sturgis South Motorcycle Rally. It also presents an opportunity for you to be involved in a major missions effort to reach thousands.

For four years now, the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB) has invested time, money and the Gospel in this rally. Last year, volunteers

GUEST OPINION:



See you at the rally!

By Russell Mord, pastor
Sturgis Church, Sturgis

from churches around the state and the Southeast helped present the gospel to thousands of bikers in Sturgis.

We want to continue the work this year, and we need your prayers and help to get it done.

The Sturgis Biker Mission represents the partnership of MBCB, Golden Triangle Association, and several local churches to present a Gospel witness during the annual rally.

Mission partners see a staggering opportunity to reach the nation through this event. That's because bikers from all professions and parts of the

country come to Sturgis. Many of them are looking for a friendly face, and many of them need Jesus. The Sturgis Biker Mission longs to give them both and to encourage them in a faith that will impact their lives and homes.

I have seen this happen for nearly a decade. I first became involved in the biker ministry through the efforts of my home church eight or nine years ago. During the years since that beginning, I have seen lost people come to Christ and Christians serving the Lord in ways they never thought possible. God has blessed the efforts.

Won't you take part in the blessing this year? There are many ways you can join in the work. In fact, the ministry you can accomplish in Sturgis is only limited by God's word and your own imagination.

Whether you serve as an individual or as part of a group, you can be involved in one-on-one witnessing encounters with bikers and bike enthusiasts or in a project of some sort. And your group can do all kinds of projects from a free bike wash to first aid to children's games to prayer ministry to whatever.

All that's really necessary is that you show Jesus to people.

If you want to do that, I beg you to come share in the blessing by sharing Christ with thousands of people. We are recruiting volunteers now to come and do just that. Would you come and be part of this effort?

A hospitality center for bikers will be located on the Sturgis Church lot. There will be many opportunities to meet people and share Christ. New Testaments, tracts and vest pins to give to bikers will be provided.



Materials and orientation will be at Sturgis Church on Highway 12 in Sturgis. An orientation meeting will be at 7 p.m. on August 16.

There will also be a continuously running orientation video in the church's fellowship hall on the afternoon of August 17 and all day on August 18.

For more information on joining this work, email sturgis_biker_mission@hotmail.com. You may also call (662) 312-3788. For more information on the bike rally itself, visit www.sturgismsrally.com.